

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**April 10, 2000**

There was considerable precipitation in Pennsylvania from April 2 to 9. Total amounts for those seven days varied from over four inches (moisture equivalent) in the Venango-Forest County area, to close to one inch near Philadelphia, with amounts generally decreasing from northwest to southeast. The average precipitation for the entire state was possibly over two inches for this period. Although only preliminary data is available for the past 24 hours, it appears that up to one-quarter inch of precipitation occurred in possibly 20 percent of Pennsylvania, encompassing mainly north, northeast and south central areas.

Since last Monday, almost all streams in the Delaware River Basin show flow enhancements. Only Frankford Creek Basin did not show enhancement, but remained fairly steady. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 14,600 to 19,600 cfs. at Riegelsville. The Lackawaxen River is up from 532 to 1,350 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up from 3,180 to 3,840 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 4,060 to 6,090 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 747 to 1,070 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 85% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for April 10.

Since April 3, the Susquehanna River Basin also shows flow enhancements. All streams in this basin have increased flows compared to the past week. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 15,500 to 54,100 cfs. at Towanda, up from 21,800 to 72,700 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 44,400 to 105,000 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 4,530 to 14,600 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 7,330 to 23,400 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 8,980 to 30,400 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 3,550 to 6,760 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 1,050 to 1,460 cfs. at Conestoga. About 75% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

Compared with last week, the Ohio River Basin also shows flow enhancements for all major watercourses. The Allegheny River is up from 11,000 to 69,400 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 21,500 to 102,000 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 2,650 to 5,920 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 8,560 to 24,100 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 2,730 to 22,000 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since April 3, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 18 counties and drops for nine. Increases range from 0.01 to 9.80 ft. (Potter County) with an average rise of 1.42 ft. Decreases range from 0.06 to 4.68 ft. (Carbon County) with an average drop of 1.37 ft.

From one-half to over 1.5 inches of precipitation (water equivalent) is forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days, with expected total amounts increasing from west to east. For the period April 14 to 19, between one-half and one inch of precipitation is expected statewide. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal for the eastern half of Pennsylvania. Somewhat below normal temperatures are expected for the western half of the state, particularly during the latter part of this period.